

Art Unit: ***

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Claims 1-22 has been cancelled.

Original claims 23-30.

23. A method for identifying compounds that modulate nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) activity, comprising:

(a) providing a cell that expresses a variant human $\alpha 7$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) polypeptide having an amino acid substitution at position valine-274 of the wild-type human $\alpha 7$ nAChR polypeptide;

(b) mixing a test compound with the cell; and

(c) measuring either

(i) the effect of the test compound on the variant $\alpha 7$ subunit or the cell expressing said subunit, or

(ii) the binding of the test compound to the cell or the receptor.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a mammalian cell, a yeast cell, an amphibian cell and a starfish cell.

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25. The method of claim 23, wherein said measurement of step (c) (ii) is performed by measuring a signal generated by a detectable moiety.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said detectable moiety is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent label, a radiolabel, a chemiluminescent label and an enzyme.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein said measurement of step (c) (i) is performed by measuring a signal generated by a radiolabeled ion, a fluorescent probe or an electrical current.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.

29. The method of claim 24, wherein the host cell is an amphibian cell.

30. The method of claim 23, wherein the substitution is a threonine for valine-274.

Claims 31-50 has been cancelled.

Original claim 51.



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